

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, RIVERSIDE



PAWSITIVE REFLECTIONS

News and Information for Families, Staff, & Friends

FALL EDITION 2009



Message from Mal

As we enter into the holiday season, I 'm happy to report that the school is on-track with its goals for the school year. We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to make sure these goals are attained.

- Increase Student Achievement and Success
- Develop Professional Learning Committees
- Increase growth in test scores
- Identify essential grade level standards
- Develop post graduation follow-up data
- Increase entry level job readiness skills
- Use data-driven instruction to improve instructional practices

(See Mal, page 2)

CSDR at Deaflympics!

By Jeff Liu, Instructor

CSDR had five athletes representing the U.S. in the world Deaflympics held earlier this year in Taipei. They were Tamijo Foronda, Reagan Anders, Nancy Moore, Jessica Ensign, and Stetson McBirnie. I participated in Deaflympics as an Athletic Trainer for the USA Women 's Volleyball team.

Tamijo Foronda works as a teacher the ECE department; Reagan Anders works as a teacher in the Physical Education Department; Nancy Moore works as a dormitory counselor and Sports Coordinator for the Elementary and Middle school athletic program; and Jessica Ensign coaches the Junior Varsity and the Varsity volleyball teams. Stetson McBirnie transferred to CSDR from Martin Luther King High School in Riverside and is taking classes here at CSDR in the morning as he goes to Ramona High School the rest of the day, where he plays water polo for Ramona High School. Deaflympics 2009 was his first international event as a water polo player. He is one of the youngest members of the USA Deaf water polo team.

(See Deaflympics, page 2)

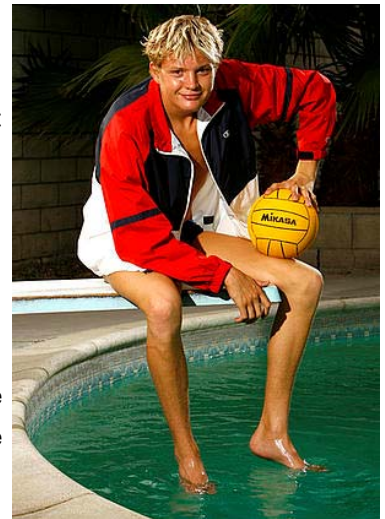


Nancy Moore, Reagan Anders, Jeff Liu, Jessica Ensign, & Tamijo Foronda

Deaflympics (cont'd from page 1)

The Deaflympics U.S. athletes participating in these events are impressive individuals. Not only are they some of the finest deaf athletes in the world, they make impressive personal sacrifices to compete. Each athlete is responsible for the cost to participate which includes transportation and housing, often totaling more than \$4500 per person. Our U.S. teams do not receive federal financial support. These athletes and teams depend on the generosity of people in the community.

On behalf of our CSDR athletes I extend my thanks to all those in our community who gave their financial and moral support them. Without you many of our athletes would not be able to represent the U.S. in this prestigious international event.



Stetson McBirnie

Crime-Free Kickin' It with CSDR!

By Staff Writer

The Crime-Free Partners Association works with multi-housing communities and businesses in a collaborative effort to provide training and assistance in reducing crime on local properties. The Board of Directors recently took time out of their busy schedules to drop off a case of soccer balls they were donating to the CSDR students. Thank you for remembering our students!



Mal (cont'd from page 1)

- Continue Implementation of School-wide Positive Behavior Model

Develop checklist to measure mastery of social skills

Participate in ongoing training/review/monitoring of the Boys Town philosophy

Effective implementation of Behavior Support Plans and Behavior Intervention Plans

Standardize and enforce established school-wide rules and expectations

- Establish Health and Safety Standards for Students and Staff

Develop and practice evacuation plan

Develop and practice various disaster plans

Implement wellness plan

- Implement WASC Action Plan

Implement annual Action Plan Goals

Establish strategic leadership team

We believe these are realistic and attainable goals. Although we are short-handed due to budget cuts, we know that staff and parents will pull together for the good of the students and help whenever possible. Please help us reach these goals by supporting the school's efforts at home with your students.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming CSDR events and sport activities.

Centro de Información

La escuela CSDR ha establecido un centro de información para los padres Hispanos. La información incluye las actividades escolares, del dormitorio, atletismo, y comunitarios. Llame al número gratis 1 (866) 889-3647. Escuchen al menú entonces oprima el número que corresponde a la escuela donde asiste su estudiante. De nuevo escuche a las opciones y oprima el número correspondiente. Este servicio esta disponible 24 horas al día. Si tiene cualquier pregunta por favor llame a Ileana Doña al (951) 782-4324.

Information Center

CSDR has set up an information center for our Spanish-speaking families. The information includes school, dorm, athletic, and community events. The toll free number is 1 (866) 889-3647. The service is available 24 hours a day. If you have any questions, please call Ileana Doña at (951) 782-4324.

Counseling Corner

*By Pamela Rich,
Supervisor of Counseling Services*

Counseling Services staff have been providing inservices to all CSDR staff who have direct contact with students on Child Protective Services and Suicide Prevention during the months of August-October. The Social workers have been networking with a variety of community agencies and have recently been very involved with setting up the CSDR Rack and Operation School Bell. We will feature each of these services in the months to come along with some tips/suggestions for various counseling issues. Stay tuned!



The Seasonal Flu Arrives Early at CSDR!

By Youlandean Johnson, Health Services Supervisor

The flu season has come early this year and CSDR has already sent several children home with flu symptoms. Please be sure to contact your doctor about receiving the flu vaccine for yourself and your family.

Your child may have been exposed to the flu while on the CSDR campus. Monitor your child for the following flu symptoms: fever, headache, dry cough, muscle aches, and fatigue. If you and/or your child have these symptoms, stay at home and contact your doctor immediately for treatment. If your child has been sick with the flu, he or she will need to be fever free (without the aid of medication) for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Here are a few simple reminders to help you stay healthy this flu season:

- Wash your hands frequently throughout the day.
- Try to avoid people coughing and sneezing in public areas.
- Eat balanced meals and remember your 5 daily servings of vegetables/fruits.
- Go to bed early enough to get 8 hours of sleep each night.



High School Leadership

By Greg Visco, Leadership Coordinator

As the coordinator of the Leadership Program, I must tell you that I feel lucky to have these seven students in our program: Maria Guzman, Alexa Ontiveros, Natalie Weldekios, Raymart Tinio, Chris Morton, Raul Alcocer, and Brandon Castro.

My goal as coordinator is to empower students to run the Leadership Program by themselves, but it is a big challenge for them to achieve. Time is precious during our meetings, so the students don't even bother to sit in desks and chairs. Everyone stands and is moving to take advantage of the 45 minute class to discuss and prepare for leadership tasks.

So far this year we have invited some staff members to give presentations about positive things in their lives that left a lasting impression. Staff encourage the students to be good leaders through the development of communication skills and teamwork. The students have worked hard to develop a strong rapport with one another, often sharing their feelings and learning to respect other's views.

Presently, the leadership group is working on the Character Counts! program and getting some students to create their own skits about admirable character with traits. They have also been working on preparing for the Spirit Rally for the upcoming Homecoming weekend.



Three of our leadership team, Maria, Alexa and Raymart, will be going to Austin, Texas for Jr. NAD Leadership Convention. I'm sure they will benefit greatly from this experience. I look forward to seeing them having rich experiences with other leaders similar to their age from all over United States.

I'm looking forward to seeing the leadership class develop their individual leadership skills and qualities!

Reading Fun

By Tamijo Foronda, Kindergarten Instructor

During the last two weeks, the Kindergarten team has been on the journey to explore the theme, "Colors All Around." In one of the fun activities, we read the book *Caps for Sale*, and we brought our individual hats in private. We had a great time trying to guess which hat belongs to which person. We are already looking forward to upcoming colorful events happening in the Kindergarten world!



An Interview with Mrs. Mackey

By Jalena Cochran and Catalina Romero, Fifth Grade Students

Two of our CSDR “Cub Reporters” in elementary school were assigned to interview the new fourth grade teacher.

CR: Where did you teach before CSDR?

PM: I taught at University High School in Irvine, CA.

JC: Why did you decide to come teach at CSDR?

PM: CSDR had a good education model and good children.

CR: What grades have you taught?

PM: 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th.

CR: How many years have you been teaching?

PM: I was a teacher’s aide for 11 years and have been a teacher for three years.

JC: Why do you want to teach deaf children?

PM: I love deaf children and ASL is beautiful.

JC: How did you become interested in deafness?

PM: A friend of mine became an interpreter and introduced me to ASL. Then she taught it to me.



Pre-Kindergarten Movies on the CSDR Website

By Nicole Park, ECE Instructor Photo by Mandy Harrell

The Pre-Kindergarten teams put together some instructional vocabulary videos and have posted them on the CSDR website. This is the time of year we ask our students to start learning letters and basic vocabulary, depending on the student’s level. In the videos Kerry Hile signs the same vocabulary the students use in class. Parents can watch the videos at home with their child or on their own. These movies help parents to support their child in reinforcing vocabulary and language at home. The movies have pictures, ASL, English, and Spanish print. And thanks to Ileana Dona, the interim Parent Education Coordinator, our newest movies include spoken English and Spanish.



Special Needs: Crusin' the Classroom

By Shelly Rempe, Principal

The students in the Special Needs Department were excited to be back in school! The staff and students have been busy preparing for various events that will take place during the school year. Here are some examples of what they have been doing:

Back to School Night – The High School Department had the gym set-up for parents to easily access their student's teachers. This was a good opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss programming.

Annual Winter Feast – All the Special Needs High School students gathered and brainstormed the kinds of foods they want to serve for the Feast. The students look forward to interacting with staff and parents and improving their culinary skills. This event will take place on January 14, 2010.

Work Ability Program – WOW, Work Ability has found many new job sites for our students this year. Our students have the opportunity to work at two state parks, a Karate studio, an animal rescue center and the Grove church. These new positions allow our students to learn new skills that they will be able to apply to future employment opportunities!

Hungry Cubs – Chris Chmaj's and Sandra Splittstosser's classes will be responsible for the program this year. This program is where our students take orders, prepare lunches and deliver them to staff. We will have the same great food and service! Our first Hungry Cubs will be on November 4, so please mark this on your calendars!

ShakeOut Drill – Our students did a fantastic job! They followed the "duck, cover and hold" directions like they were pros!

Special Athletics – On October 16th we had our first event, Volleyball. There were 350 students plus staff from various schools throughout the area. We had games for Elementary, Middle School and High School students. The students had a lot of fun and were very enthusiastic! Our next event will be Basketball on January 15. Be sure to mark your calendars and come support our athletes!!!



PIP Graduation

By ECE Staff Writer

We had our traditional PIP Graduation honoring our three PIPers, Tijeane Chin-Sue, Amelia Miller and Darius Zaremka. They all turned 3 this fall, so it's time to let these "no-longer toddlers" grow up into Preschoolers! They have demonstrated their readiness to continue to learn in the Preschool classrooms here at CSDR. We will miss them! Congratulations!



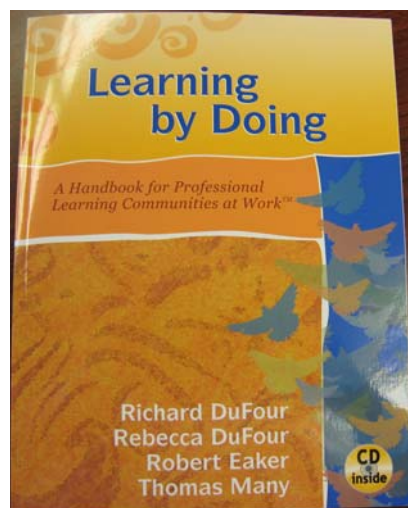
CSDR: A Professional Learning Community

By Alyce Berard, Director of Instruction

On September 3 and 4, many CSDR staff members attended a two-day training on how to create a Professional Learning Community (PLC). The focus of this training was to embrace the notion that the fundamental purpose of a school is for learning. In order to raise student achievement levels, a school must concentrate on establishing what it is we want students to learn, how we will know when students have acquired the skills and knowledge, and what action we will take as a school when students have difficulty acquiring these skills. Collaboration is an important part of this process and throughout the two day period, collaborative teams worked to learn more about the PLC model and how this process can support increased student achievement at CSDR.

Teachers and CSDR support staff will continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss data-driven instruction, share best practices in teaching, develop assessments, and establish intervention strategies to meet the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of the students.

This training was a wonderful way to kick off the 2009-2010 school year. CSDR is committed to using the knowledge that we learned during this training to assist us in meeting our WASC action plan goals throughout the next six years.



What's Shakin' at CSDR?

By Staff Writer

At 10:25 a.m. on October 15, 2009, CSDR staff and students participated in the largest earthquake drill ever! The school joined over 6.9 million Californians as they practiced the "Duck, Cover, and Hold" drill.

The purpose of the ShakeOut is to practice how to protect ourselves during earthquakes, and to get prepared at work, school, and home.

While we cannot stop a huge earthquake from occurring, we can be prepared. Learn more about earthquake safety and how you can get prepared at the following websites:

<http://www.shakeout.org/dropcoverholdon>

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/step5.html>

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info/dropcoverholdon/>



All the CSDR Cubs took part in the drill!

Rubidoux Bowl

By Jasmine Goolsby, Rubidoux Residential Counselor

Photos by Brad Miles

On October 22, 2009 the middle school students of CSDR came together once again to celebrate the annual Rubidoux Bowl. The students ate and then went to the social hall, which had been transformed into a carnival atmosphere where there were all kinds of games and booths. There was hockey, basketball, plastic dart throwing, cotton candy and more. The students played for tickets and were then able to select from a wide variety of prizes.

After a few hours of that, the students were ready to go and cheer the CSDR Cubs football team! CSDR had a football game against a powerhouse team, Rio Hondo Prep from Arcadia. They beat us by the score of 0-32, but the coaches were very proud of our players because they played hard and did not give up. Our defense held them to 6 points in the second half of the game. Unfortunately, our offense could not score any points, but we did make some beautiful big plays! On defense, Miguel Barrios led the team with 8 tackles, Ramiro Bustamante had 7 tackles and 6 assists and Kanaiyo Ekeh had 6 tackles. Way to go, CUBS!!

After the game came the traditional dinner and dance. This year the Rubidoux area had 6 princesses and 3 princes waiting to see who would be named Rubidoux Queen and King. Meg Ruth, Sara Wnek, Vanessa Campos, Yvette Martinez, Brittney Creek, and Yvette Mosqueda were the princesses of the evening. Miguel Barrios, Ramiro Bustamante, Ernesto Garcia, and were the princes.

After a delicious dinner, Brittney and Ernesto were announced the new King and Queen and everyone was happy for them.

The rest of the night the students danced and played games. It was a wonderfully busy day that the students enjoyed, but none of it could

have happened without the help of the Tick Tockers who came and volunteered throughout the day. Thank you Tick Tockers!



Pachappa Bowl 2009

By Jens Rechenberg,

On October 20, the Elementary Area hosted one of the biggest events of the school year with Pachappa Bowl 2009. The event was a huge success and our students loved it. We started the fun-filled day with several games under the patio of Pachappa dormitory. Students lined up to get tickets. There were many different prizes, toys and coupons to win. We also served pizzas and punch. The students had such a great time and were so excited to participate in all the games. Many of them won the games and prizes. They proudly showed their winning coupons to their friends and parents. Their bags were stuffed with all the toys they collected. The Pachappa Bowl lasted all afternoon from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Everyone had a great time. We will be looking forward to having it again next year.



Emergency Preparedness

By Mary Hanlon, Accountability Team Leader

All CSDR staff recently participated in training to review procedures for ensuring that everyone is safe in the event of an emergency. The training was followed by a campus-wide evacuation drill to practice a system for accounting for nearly 800 people who work and go to school at CSDR. During past drills, the school has consistently demonstrated the ability to determine if anyone is missing in less than one hour. During this drill, all students and staff evacuated and the school's

accountability team went to work to determine if everyone was safe. Students and staff waited anxiously while the team worked. Once again, the team accounted for every single student and staff member in less than one hour. In the event of a real emergency, CSDR is prepared to demonstrate that the safety of students and staff is a top priority.

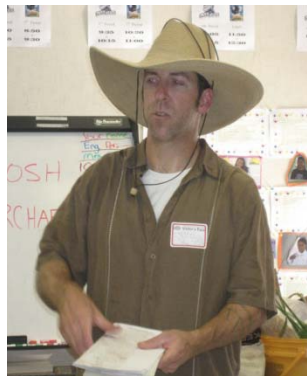


What's In the Past?

By Lisa Chute, Middle School Instructor

How do we know what happened in the past? The sixth graders in Middle School asked that question and many more when a guest archaeologist came to visit. Josh Smallwood is an architectural historian and senior archaeologist. He described the different things he does as an archaeologist. He shared with the students the tools, maps, and equipment that he uses. He then showed the students different artifacts that he has reproduced from sites here in Riverside County. The students were fascinated and asked many questions as they were able to see and touch the reproductions of real artifacts. Students tried on a backpack made from deer hide, acted out how ancient people hunted, tried the grinding tools, looked at bows, arrowheads, stone tools, and jewelry and even experienced a demonstration on how fire is made using a fire drill.

Now as we continue to explore ancient civilizations the students can make connections from our visit with Archaeologist Josh.



Was It Really Good in the "Good Ol' Days?"

By Elementary Department Staff Writer

On October 14, the third and fifth grade classes traveled to Riley's Los Rios Ranchos apple farm in Oak Glen. Since the classes are currently learning about pioneers and early California history in Social Studies, the trip was a great experience. The students were able to get some hands-on experience during the trip.

The class had a great time learning how the pioneers lived and took care of the apples. They helped press apples to make apple cider, learned about the washing, drying, and packing of the apples, made an apple design on a tin plate, and tried their hand at making candles.

The pioneers had a lot of work to do every day. The students felt lucky to not have to do everything by hand like the pioneers did!



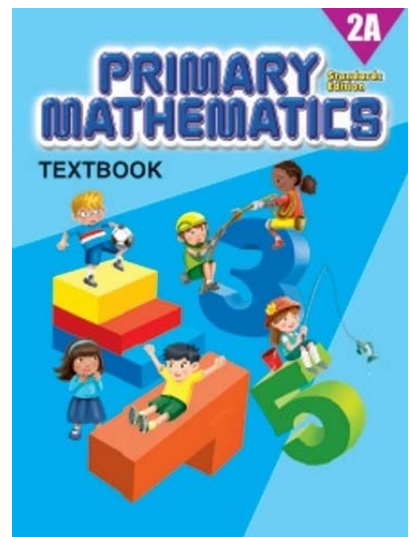
Singapore Math at CSDR

By Lisa Kuntzsch-Beck

Last spring, the elementary department went through a math textbook adoption and the Singapore curriculum was chosen. So, this fall the curriculum department set up training for teachers on this new curriculum. In order for students to receive the most benefit from this new program, teachers from ECE all the way up through HS and SN, are involved in the intensive Friday training schedule.

What is Singapore Math? It is a math curriculum developed in Singapore in response to easing student difficulties in solving, for example, division and story problems. This mathematics curriculum strongly focuses on developing students' number sense, problem-solving skills and understanding of place value.

The curriculum is designed to provide a focused, in-depth learning of mathematical concepts that are taught to mastery. Thus, there is less time spent reviewing material from previous years and more time for teaching of new concepts.



Don't forget to check out the CSDR website to see a calendar of events and the latest news at CSDR.

www.csdrcde.ca.gov

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CSDR Test Dates

DRDP – Desired Results Developmental Profile

October 1st – November 20th – Preschool students (3, 4, and 5 years old)

February 1st – April 30th – Preschool students (3, 4, and 5 years old)

MAP – Measures of Academic Progress

September 14th – October 31st – Elementary, Middle School, and High School (Grades 2 – 11)

March 1st – April 23rd – Elementary, Middle School, and High School (Grades 2 – 11)

CAHSEE – California High School Exit Exam

November 3rd / 4th – juniors

February 2nd / 3rd – seniors

March 16th / 17th –sophomores

May 11th / 12th – seniors, juniors, and (sophomores make-up only)

STAR Writing - Standardized Testing and Reporting (CST and CMA)

March 3rd (Grade 7 only)

STAR – Standardized Testing and Reporting

CST – California Standards Test

CMA – California Modified Assessment

CAPA - California Alternate Performance Assessment

April 27th – May 21st

PFT – Physical Fitness Test

February 1st – May 21st (Grades 5, 7, and 9)

Upcoming Events

11/13 6:30 p.m. CSDR vs. Maryland School for the Deaf Homecoming Game at CSDR

11/21 CSDR CAN Scrapbooking in Social Hall 10:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.

11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving Recess—School Closed

11/29 Residential students return

11/30 Classes resume

12/2 ASL Storytelling—Barnes and Noble

12/5 CSDR CAN Scrapbooking in Social Hall 10:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.